

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 114356

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: REDUCING CONSULAR WORKLOADS

REF: (A) LONDON 4392 (B) PARIS 13629 (C) STATE 31803

1. IN PARAGRAPH 8 OF PARIS 13629, ASSISTANT SECRETARY WATSON STATED THAT WHILE THE DEPARTMENT REMAINS CONVINCED THAT THERE APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT REASONS TO WARRANT CONTINUATION OF MONTHLY PRISON VISITATIONS, IN VIEW OF THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES POINTED OUT IN LONDON'S 4392, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE UNDER ADVISEMENT AN EMBASSY REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF THE MONTHLY PRISON VISIT REQUIREMENT.

2. SHOULD THE EMBASSY DECIDE TO SUBMIT A WAIVER REQUEST FOR MONTHLY PRISON VISITS, ITS JUSTIFICATION SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY SPECIFIC AND DETAILED TO ENABLE THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE A WELL-CONSIDERED DECISION AND TO JUSTIFY IT, IF FAVORABLE, TO CONGRESS TO WHOM THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED
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TO MAINTAIN A SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY PRISON VISITS WORLDWIDE.

3. IN SUBMITTING ITS WAIVER REQUEST, THE EMBASSY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE PRINCIPAL BASIS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT QUARTERLY PRISON VISITS WOULD PROVIDE AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF PROTECTION AND SERVICE. THE NUMBER

OF MAN-YEARS SAVED BY CONVERTING TO A QUARTERLY SCHEDULE, WHILE PART OF THE EQUATION, WOULD NOT BE A DETERMINING FACTOR IF SERVICES TO OR PROTECTION OF THE PRISONERS WERE TO DETERIORATE IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY.

4. AS POINTED OUT IN STATE 31803, CONDITIONS IN PRISONS (ADEQUATE FOOD, SPACE AND MEDICAL CARE, HUMANE TREATMENT, ETC.) ARE ONLY ONE OF THE REASONS THAT AN AMCIT'S PRISONER'S SITUATION SHOULD BE CLOSELY MONITORED. IN SUBMITTING ITS WAIVER REQUEST, THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY SHOULD ADDRESS THE SEVERAL OTHER REASONS ENUMERATED IN 31803 (A) THROUGH (J), AND DEMONSTRATE THAT QUARTERLY VISITS WOULD SATISFY THESE REASONS WITHOUT SERIOUSLY DIMINISHING THE DEGREE OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION PROVIDED BY MONTHLY VISITS. CHRISTOPHER

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